Saguaro National Park 3693 South Old Spanish Trail Tucson, AZ 85730

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Saguaro National Park News Release

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September Programs Offered At Saguaro National Park

Saguaro National Park is offering special programs this summer that explore the park's wonderful natural and cultural history. Come along on a naturalist-led evening walk in the park, or join a local expert for a presentation in one of our visitor centers. *Programs are offered at both the east and west districts.* Interpretive programs are free, but park entrance fees apply. Program schedules are subject to change – call the visitor centers for schedule updates or for reservations.

Special Programs offered at the Tucson Mountain District (Saguaro West) include:

September 16 and 30 6:30 a.m. Coffee And Cactus 90 minutes, 1 mile walk
Rise and shine! Grab your water, beat the heat, and see what we can find during an early morning walk in the desert. Meet at the Red Hills Visitor Center to begin this conducted hike over easy terrain. No sandals, please!

September 2, 3, 9, 10, 17, 23, 30 11:45 a.m. Tarantula 45 minute talk

They look big, hairy, and scary, but they're really just big (8 legged) pussycats! Come meet a live tarantula and learn more about this fascinating desert creature. This program is wheelchair accessible.

September 2, 3, 9, 10, 16, 17, 23, 30 2:15 p.m. The CCC in Saguaro National Park 45 minute talk
The Civilian Conservation Corps was a Depression-era work program that had a great influence on national, state, and county parks. Many features in Saguaro were established during this program. A brief history of the CCC in this area will be illustrated with old photo images and movie clips. *Program is wheelchair accessible.*

Sept. 3, 4, 5, 7, 11, 14, 18, 21, 24, 25, 28 9:45 a.m. Neighborhood Characters 45 minute talk

An easy morning walk in the Cactus Garden will bring you face to thorns with plants that remind you of people you know, friendly and otherwise. This program is wheelchair accessible.

September 6, 13, 20, 27
2:15 p.m. Meet the Cuckoo of the Desert 45 minute talk
Learn about the natural history, behavior, and other fascinating facts about this colorful creature: the roadrunner.

This program is wheelchair accessible.

September 5, 7, 11, 14, 18, 21, 24, 25, 28 3:15 p.m. Fast Food in the Desert 45 minute illustrated talk Sonoran Desert indigenous people of centuries past looked to the natural world for sustenance, from the mammoths of olden days to the Three Sisters of corn, beans, and squash of more recent times. What other foods did indigenous people eat, and where did corn come from, anyway? This program is wheelchair accessible.

September 9 and 23

10:45 a.m.

Saguaro – Not Just a Pretty Face

45 minute talk

What has droopy arms, upward arms, no arms, multiple arms, serves as a hotel, and loves dry arid climates?

Find out what's growing in the Saguaro National Park. This program is wheelchair accessible.

September 18 2:00 p.m."The Last Season" by Eric Blehm

1.5 hours book club discussion
Come join us for coffee and to discuss September's book club selection, "The Last Season" by Eric Blehm. See the website for thelastseason.com for more details about this true-life riveting read about a NPS backcountry ranger's disappearance in the High Sierra. Location: TMD's Environmental Education Center.

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Special Programs offered at the Rincon Mountain District (Saguaro East) include:

September 9 and 23 7:00 p.m. Night Walk 2 hours, I mile walk

Join a park naturalist for this easy 2-hour hike to explore and experience the Sonoran Desert at night. Dress for the weather, wear comfortable walking shoes, and bring water and a flashlight. As space is limited, <u>reservations</u> <u>are required</u>, and can be made by calling 733-5153.

September 3, 10, 17 & 24 11:00 a.m. Saguaro National Park: A Common Heritage video
This 20-minute video explores the history and heritage of those who settled the Tanque Verde and Rincon Valleys. This program is wheelchair accessible.

September 3, 11, 17 & 24 3:00 p.m. People and Places of Saguaro's Past illustrated talk

Join Park Ranger Arlo Ogden in the Visitor Center auditorium for this photo tour of the park's historic past, focusing on the stories told by its historic structures. This program is wheelchair accessible.

September 16 4:00 p.m. The Student Conservation Association at Saguaro NP presentation/easy walks
Join staff from the Student Conservation Association in the visitor center auditorium to learn about the SCA and
the work being done at Saguaro National Park. After the presentation, visitors may choose to join short walks to
discuss the following topics: Cactus Diversity, Geology and Meteorology of the Sonoran Desert and Ethnobotany.
Advance registration is recommended and can be made by calling 733-5153. This program is wheelchair
accessible.

Daily Programs

The park's two districts offer additional daily interpretive programs not listed here. Contact either of our visitor centers for updated schedules, or visit our website online at http://www.nps.gov/sagu/planyourvisit/things2do.htm.

Visitor Center Locations/Phone Numbers

Both visitor centers are open daily from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, except Christmas Day.

Red Hills Visitor Center (Saguaro WEST)

2700 North Kinney Road

Tucson, AZ 85743

(520) 733-5158

Rincon Mountain Visitor Center (Saguaro EAST)

3693 South Old Spanish Trail

Tucson, AZ 85730

(520) 733-5153

For more information about Saguaro National Park and some of its partners, Friends of Saguaro National Park, Western National Parks Association, and the Rincon Institute, visit these websites:

<u>www.nps.gov/sagu</u> <u>www.wnpa.org</u>

www.friendsofsaguaro.org www.rinconinstitute.org